

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 5, and 6 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-6, and 15 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIM 6 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claim 6 has been amended herein to overcome the claim rejection.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 3-6 AND 15 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(E) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY TSAI (US PATENT NO. 6,839,741)

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In referring to claim 1, Tsai fails to disclose "retrieving, ..., an attached file from the external server of location shown by the store location information of the external server using the user account of the external server." Tsai teaches in col. 4, lines 51-56 that "The information provided in the access control options may include an options control list that provides a list of user IDs for authorized recipients. The access control options may specify a password that is assigned to the attachment file and that must be provided in order for recipients to access or download the attachment file." The password recited in Tsai is used for recipients to download the attached file, not for the web server 20 to obtain the attachment file. In addition, Tsai teaches in col. 4, lines 61-63 that "After the appropriate information is entered by a sender 12, the web server 20 uploads the attachment file using the information that has been provided (step 48 in FIG. 3A)." When the attachment file is uploaded to the web server 20 in accordance with operations of the sender 12, the web server 20 does not use a user account or a password which was used for logging in to the sender 12.

Further, Tsai fails to disclose "storing, in advance by a recipient of the electronic mail, the transfer management information including a store location information of an internal server, a user account of the internal server, and a password of the account of the internal server, the internal server being connected inside of the network". By contrast, Tsai teaches in col.4 line 39-56 that "The sender 12 selects the option ... The information provided in the access control options may include an options control list that provides a list of user IDs for authorized

recipients. The access control options may specify a password that is assigned to the attachment file and that must be provided in order for recipients to access or download the attachment file.” The password recited in Tsai is set by the sender 12 to allow an attachment file to be downloaded, and this password is not the one which has previously been set by a recipient. In addition, Tsai teaches in col.5 line 26-54 that the recipient enters a password etc. when downloading the attachment file, but fails to teach a password or the like previously set by the recipient. According to claim 1, the internal server is “connected outside of a network protected from outside”, and user account information of the internal server which is a destination of the attachment file needs to be set in advance by a recipient.

Furthermore, Tsai fails to teach “transferring the attached file separated from the electronic mail by the attached file separating means or retrieved from the external server by the attached file retrieving means to the internal server using the user account of the internal server and the password of the account of the internal server by referring to the transfer management information, to enable a user to refer to the attached file transferred by logging in at the internal server”. By contrast, Tsai shows in Fig. 2 that the attachment file is sent directly from the Web server 20 to a recipient, which is not equivalent to a technique of transferring to the “internal server” an attachment file retrieved from “the external server”. In addition, Tsai shows in Fig. 5 that an e-mail with an attachment file is sent to the attachment server 90, which is not equivalent to a technique of transferring an attachment file between servers separately from an e-mail itself. It should be noted that Tsai teaches in col. 6 lines 61 - col. 7 lines 2 that “The recipients email server i.e. attachment server 90, receives the email message and strips off the attachment 26 (step 94 in FIG. 6). The attachment server 90 then inserts a notification into the email 28 that notifies the recipients 14a, 14b and 14c of the presence of the attachment. The attachment server 90 may choose to store the attachment 26 at the attachment server. Preferably, the attachment server 90 sends the attachment to the web server 20 (step 98 in FIG. 6). The web server 20 then places the attachment in the database account for the recipient (step 100 in FIG. 6).” In this connection, what is sent from the attachment server 90 to the web server 20 is an attachment file that the web server 20 extracted from the e-mail, not “the attached file ... retrieved from the external server by the attached file retrieving means”.

Similarly to claim 1, claims 3-6 recite features which are not disclosed by Tsai.

Regarding claim 15, Tsai teaches “retrieving a file attached to an electronic mail message from an external storage location on an external server located outside a protected network by

using an external user account on the external server and an external password for the external user account transmitted with the electronic mail message” and also teaches in col.4, lines 51-56 that “The information provided in the access control options may include an options control list that provides a list of user IDs for authorized recipients. The access control options may specify a password that is assigned to the attachment file and that must be provided in order for recipients to access or download the attachment file.” The password recited in Tsai is used for recipients to download the attachment file, and is not used for the web server 20 to obtain an attachment file. In addition, Tsai teaches in col.4, lines 61-63 that “After the appropriate information is entered by a sender 12, the web server 20 uploads the attachment file using the information that has been provided (step 48 in FIG. 3A).” When the attachment file is uploaded to the web server 20 in accordance with operations of the sender 12, the web server 20 does not use a user account or a password which was used for logging in to the sender 12.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,
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